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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

THE FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT OF AMMAN 0186 ACTION

SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA TEL

AVIV JERUSALEM 12 JANUARY 1975. QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, XF

SUBJ: PRESS INTERVIEW BY KING HUSSEIN AND PREMIER RIFAI

1. SUMMARY: IN PRESS INTERVIEW, KING HUSSEIN WARNED THAT ANY NEW MIDDLE EAST WAR WILL BE CATASTROPHIC, PERHAPS INVOLVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEW, PREMIER RIFAI MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) JORDAN NO LONGER CONCERNED PARTY AT GENEVA; B) JORDAN WILL INEVITABLY BE PARTY TO ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH NOT INVOLVED IN INITIAL STAGES OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM WEST BANK; C) HISTORY WILL JUDGE WHETHER RABAT CONFERENCE SUCCESSFUL; D) JORDAN HAS ADOPTED MANY INITIATIVES FAVORABLE TO PLO AND PALESTINIANS; E) ISSUE OF ANTI-HASHEMITE PLO STATEMENTS NOT YET SETTLED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN INTERVIEW WITH ZURICH DIE VIETUSH (PHONETIC)

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HEADLINED IN AMMAN PAPERS JAN 10, KING HUSSEIN

WARNED THAT ANY NEW WAR IN MIDDLE WOULD BE TOTAL CATASTROPHE, PERHAPS INCLUDING USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. KING NOTED THAT EVEN WITHOUT NUCLEAR ELEMENTS, ARMS SUPPLIES OF STATES INVOLVED ARE SO VAST THAT ANY NEW CONFLICT WILL BE "TOTAL". ADDED THAT CURRENT PEACE IS THEREFORE "FAKE".

3. IN INTERVIEW ON SEPARATE SUBJECT WITH EGYPTIAN WEEKLY AL-MUSAWAR PUBLISHED IN AMMAN DAILIES JAN 10, PREMIER ZAYD RIFAI MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. JORDAN WILL "INEVITABLY" BE A PARTY IN ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL, BUT IS NOT NOW PARTICIPANT IN INITIAL PHASES OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM WEST BANK.

B. AT TIME OF RABAT DECISION, KING HUSSEIN MENTIONED POSSIBLE DANGERS INHERENT IN RABAT SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE DECIDED TO ABIDE MAJORITY DECISION. POSITIVE ASPECTS OF RABAT ARE GREATER THAN NEGATIVE, YET ONLY HISTORY CAN ULTIMATELY JUDGE VALUE OF RABAT.

C. CAIRO QUADRIPARTITE CONFERENCE WAS GREAT SUCCESS. RIFAI MENTIONED JORDAN HAS TAKEN GENERAL INITIATIVES SINCE RABAT, SUCH AS RELEASING PALESTINIAN PRISONERS, CESSATION OF POLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY AGAINST PLO, AND ALLOWING PRESENCE IN JORDAN OF "MANY" MEMBERS OF PALESTINE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND MEMBERS OF PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE "WITH WHOM WE HAVE HAD CONTINUOUS CONTACTS". YET SOME POINTS NOT YET SETTLED. "SUCH AS STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS OF SOME PLO MEMBERS. WE HOPE THAT THE PLO WILL SOON BE ABLE TO CONTROL ITS DISOBEDIENT ELEMENTS".

4. GOJ-SPONSORED AR-RAYY IN JAN 11 ISSUE PRINTS UNUSUALLY ASSERTIVE EDITORIAL ON RIFAI INTERVIEW. "ON THE ARAB LEVEL, JORDAN ADHERES TO THE RABAT RESOLUTIONS...ON THE WORLD LEVEL, JORDAN CONSIDERS ITSELF NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, SINCE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS ON WITHDRAWAL ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PLO. JORDAN'S ATTITUDE WAS IMPOSED BY UNANIMOUS ARAB APPROVAL AT RABAT AND HENCE IS NOT SUBJECT TO REVISION...THIS MEANS THAT JORDAN WILL REMAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 009815

OUT OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN IF THE CONCERNED PARTIES AGREE TO JORDAN'S PARTICIPATION. JORDAN HAD TO BEAR THE WOUNDS OF THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND DURING VERY DIFFICULT TIMES AND WITH VERY FEW RESOURCES, AND THEREFORE SHE WILL NOT AGREE TO BE PART OF EXPEDIENT MANEUVERS ENCOMPASSED IN ANY INTERNATIONAL MOVE. RIFAI'S STATEMENTS ARE NOT IMAGINARY; THEY ARE MEANT EXPLICITLY TO CONFIRM AN ATTITUDE".

5. COMMENT: RIFAI INTERVIEW REAFFIRMS CURRENT GOJ POSTURE
SINCE QUADRIpartite MEETING OF DECLARING CONTINUED
OBSERVANCE OF RABAT RESOLUTIONS GIVING PLO PRIMACY
ON WEST BANK NEGOTIATIONS AND OF PLAYING HARD-TO-GET
ON ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA. RIFAI'S CLAIM THAT GOJ IS
ALLOWING PLO POLITICAL PRESENCE IN JORDAN IS MISLEAD-
ING SINCE PERSONS IT REFERS TO ARE "TAME" PLO MEMBERS
WHO ATTENDED RECENT PLO EXCOM MEETING IN DAMASCUS.
ALL WERE PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT IN AMMAN. GOJ CONTINUES
TO RESIST ESTABLISHMENT ANY SIGNIFICANT PLO POLITICAL
OR ANY FEDAYEEN ACTIVITIES IN JORDAN.
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